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ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

MARCH, 1845.

SPECIAL EFFORTS IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

Our friends are requested to read this article with care and favor.

The American Peace Society is engaged in a system of operations designed, by the diffusion of light and love, to produce such a change of public sentiment respecting war, as shall lead nations to discard the sword as the arbiter of their disputes, and adopt in its place substitutes more rational, more Christian, and far more effective for all purposes of protection and redress. In the prosecution of this work, we keep a depository of publications on peace, issue a monthly periodical, publish a variety of popular volumes and tracts, send forth agents as lecturers, enlist as far as possible the pulpit and the press in behalf of our cause, and maintain correspondence and co-operation with kindred societies in other parts of the world.

This general system embraces whatever needs to be done for the cause; but, since our ordinary income will suffice only for a limited and very economical scale of operations, we are always obliged to make special efforts in meeting any emergency, or improving unexpected opportunities for the furtherance of our object. Such was the General Peace Convention in London, with the new measures to which it called us; and in promptly responding to those claims, we were compelled to expend for some time about twice as much as we received. The way is now open for three operations which, if pursued aright, promise to give our cause a new, extensive and lasting impulse; but, as we can undertake neither of them without either a large increase of our *general* income, or *special* contributions for these particular objects, we submit the plans to our friends, and ask them to contribute, as they may prefer, either to our general funds, or to the objects here specified.

1. We wish, as soon as possible, to bring the whole question of *substitutes for war*, particularly *arbitration*, and a *Congress of Nations*, before our National and State Legislatures. That of Massachusetts, in response to the call of our friends, has already taken the right stand on these subjects; nor can we doubt that other States, when properly addressed, and duly enlightened, would do the same, and that our General Government would *then* respond to *their* call by efforts in earnest to bring before other nations the great question of expedients for adjusting national difficulties without war. For this purpose, we must enlist the political as well as religious press, obtain petitions from the people, attend to these petitions when in committee before any legislature, and furnish not only our legislators, but leading men through the country, with adequate information on the subjects thus brought before them. This information we have already condensed into a pamphlet of forty pages; and of this we shall need to circulate some ten or twenty thousand copies.

2. Simultaneously with this operation, we wish to bring *the general subject of peace* before the WHOLE PEOPLE by brief, popular articles from our ablest writers, inserted at short intervals for several years, in all our newspapers, of which there are supposed to be nearly 1500 in the land. For

this purpose, we should see the editors to engage them in the measure, get other friends of peace to co-operate with them, and send in the Advocate of Peace articles to be inserted in each paper as original, unless other articles should be prepared by friends of the cause on the spot. This would require a person to travel through the land, and some ten or fifteen hundred copies of the Advocate for several years.

The topics on which we should publish, would be such as these :—causes of war ;—its direct cost ;—its enormous debts ;—its incidental waste of property ;—its effects on commerce, manufactures, and all the useful arts ;—its havoc of human life ;—its atrocities and sufferings ;—its influence on morality, religion, and the benevolent enterprises of the age ;—what the United States have paid for war ;—how much our own cheap war system extorts from Christians alone ;—peace the great want of the age ;—war *may* be superseded by such substitutes as negotiation, arbitration, a Congress of nations ;—the means to be used for the abolition of war ;—various circumstances of the age peculiarly favorable to this object ;—this country best situated to lead the van of such a movement, &c., &c., &c.

3. We are anxious especially to cast the seeds of peace in those great centres of influence which do most to form or control public opinion, and give character to the rising generation. With this view, we now have in course of publication, a series of popular tracts about fifty in number, and making together a volume of some five hundred pages, on the various topics connected with the subject of peace and war, from some of the ablest writers that ever lived, Protestant and Catholic, Congregationalists and Unitarians, Episcopalians and Baptists, Presbyterians and Quakers ; representatives of every considerable denomination in Christendom ; Americans, Englishmen and Scotchmen, Frenchmen and Dutchmen—ERASMUS, the day-star of modern literature, and the literary Mentor of his age ; NECKAR, the illustrious financier of France ; Dr. BOGUE, THOMAS CLARKSON, JOSEPH JOHN GURNEY, Dr. CHALMERS, ROBERT HALL, some of the first minds and noblest spirits that England ever produced ; and in our own country, such writers as Dr. CHANNING, WILLIAM LADD, NOAH WORCESTER, D. D., Hon. WILLIAM JAY, HOWARD MALCOM, D. D., and Hon. JOSIAH QUINCY, LL. D. This rare constellation of genius and learning, philanthropy and taste, we wish to embody in a pregnant volume on the subject of peace, and then *furnish not only individuals prominent in church or State, but EVERY PUBLIC LIBRARY in the land, with a copy*, and also send one or more to *every American missionary station* among the heathen.

It is obvious that each of these operations would by itself do permanent good on a large scale at very small comparative expense. The full execution of the *three* plans would require not less than \$3,000 ; but we shall carry them into effect just as fast as we can get the means. Whatever our friends may give, will be applied as far as it will go. If our regular income would suffice, we should ask no special donation for such purposes ; and, as it is, we desire our friends to select, if they prefer, the object of their liberality ; and give either to all these plans together, or to any one of them, or to our general funds, and we shall apply the contributions of each donor in accordance with his wishes.

We hope our friends, to whom this statement is sent, will lend as favorable an ear as they can. Our Secretary, or some agent of ours, may see a few of them ; and others can send, if disposed, to our Treasurer, J. P. BLANCHARD, No. 22 Cornhill, Boston. These plans, whenever presented to our friends, have uniformly met their decided approbation ; from some of them, we have already received liberal pledges of sums from \$25 to \$100 each ; and we trust neither of the proposed plans will be suffered to fail or lag for want of the requisite funds.

The community are not aware *how much* is necessary for the successful prosecution of such an enterprise. We need for our *ordinary* operations far more than we have hitherto received ; and we earnestly hope, that those who may not be particularly interested in the plans we have suggested, will

contribute liberally to our general fund. A cause so identical with our religion of peace, so important to all the great interests of our world, and so highly favored by the God of peace, surely deserves a cordial and vigorous support. Cannot some of our wealthy friends give us at once \$500 or \$1000? In what way can they do more good with that portion of their wealth, or bring the nation and the world under larger or more lasting obligations to themselves? Howard paid from his own purse, for the cause of Prison Discipline, nearly \$10,000 a year for some fifteen years. May the God of peace raise up ere-long other Howards for this blessed and glorious enterprise!

In behalf of the Executive Committee of the American Peace Society,
GEO. C. BECKWITH, *Cor. Sec.*

Boston, January, 1845.

P. S. Since the foregoing action of the Committee of the Parent Society, the Executive Committee of the New York Peace Society, at the suggestion of a distinguished friend from the western part of that State, have taken action in favor especially of the second plan sketched above. We rejoice much in this proposed movement of theirs, and hope, since that great emporium of our country is so peculiarly favorable to such an operation, they will be able in the end to take it entirely into their own hands. Meanwhile we shall do all we can to carry into effect that plan along with the rest, and shall appropriate to it whatever funds may be contributed, whether in New York, or elsewhere, for that specific purpose.

THE PERIODICAL PRESS.

We have often alluded to the periodical press as our most effective co-worker; nor can we refrain from repeating our allusions to its spontaneous and invaluable co-operation. It is gratefully surprising to mark the rapid increase of matter published on the subject of peace in our dailies and weeklies, our monthlies and quarterlies; and from these alone we might every month fill our entire sheet, if not twice over, with articles often pithy, striking and powerful. The spirit of the age is gradually taking this work out of our hands; or, rather, it is at length heeding the oft-repeated calls of peace-men, and coming cheerfully and resolutely to their aid in this great enterprise of patriotism, philanthropy and religion.

Let us take as a specimen *Littell's Living Age*; a work recently started, and designed, as its title intimates, to be a weekly mirror of the times. It calls from all Christendom, and lays under contribution to its pages, the leading newspapers, reviews and journals of the world. We have not been regular readers of this popular and valuable work; but, on looking over the first number in October, 1844, the 21st in the series, we found nearly *one-fifth* of its pages occupied with such articles on the subject of peace, as we give below.* Almost every number has more or less on the subject; and from these facts it is obvious, that peace is already a topic of such general interest, as to be in demand with the mass of readers, and is fast enlisting in its advocacy some of the most eloquent pens and powerful presses in the world. We hail this indication as a most cheering omen; and, in the name of religion and humanity, we return our thanks to the conductors of the press for these important services in a cause of such vast importance to the whole human race. We wished to copy several articles, but could find room only for the following:

* This article was selected some months ago, but postponed for want of room.